

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 FEA-02 INT-08

SCI-06 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1659

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 2160

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, OECD

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FEBRUARY 11 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

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1. SUMMARY: HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING TO DISCUSS WASHINGTON

ENERGY CONFERENCE HELD JAN 22 IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED AND BY ITALY. THOUGH SOME DELS GAVE THEIR GOVERNMENTS' VIEWS ON QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT CONFERENCE, MOST OF DISCUSSION CENTERED ON SUGGESTIONS TO CONVENE A MEETING OF OECD ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO PREPARE FOR THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND TO INSTRUCT SEC GEN ON HIS PARTICIPATION. NEITHER SUGGESTION WAS ACCEPTED. SEVERAL MEMBERS EXPRESSED HOPE THEY WOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF CONFERENCE IN MEETING OF OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN DEL LED OFF MEETING WITH REQUEST FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF OECD COUNCIL AT LEVEL OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO PREPARE FOR WASHINGTON FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD HELP DEFINE ECONOMIC ISSUES, WOULD UNDERLINE IMPORTANT ROLE OECD MUST PLAY IN ENERGY FIELD (ESPECIALLY AS VEHICLE FOR EXCHANGES BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS), AND WOULD GIVE COUNTRY NOT INVITED TO WASHINGTON CONFERENCE A CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND GREECE STRONGLY SUPPORTED ITALIAN INITIATIVE, WHILE ADDING ARGUMENT THAT OECD MEETING NEEDED TO INSTRUCT SEC GEN ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. AUSTRIAN AND TURKISH DELS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ITALIAN PROPOSAL, BUT APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO ENDORSE IT OUTRIGHT IN ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS.

3. US AND CANADIAN DELS OPPOSED ITALIAN PROPOSAL AS BOTH INAPPROPRIATE AND IMPRACTICAL. ABOUT HALF DOZEN OTHER DELS EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF SYMPATHY WITH ITALIAN PROPOSAL BUT REJECTED IT ON GROUNDS TIME WOULD NOT PERMIT ADEQUATE PREPARATION. U.S. BELGIAN AND CANADIAN DELS ALSO OPPOSED INSTRUCTION OF SEC GEN FOR WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

4. IN HIS SUMMING UP, SEC GEN ADDED HIS PERSONAL VIEW IN OPPOSITION TO OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL BEFORE FEB 11, SEC GEN ALSO SAID THAT HE DID NOT REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS TO FILL WHAT HE CONCEIVES TO BE HIS ROLE AT CONFERENCE I.E. TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEFINITION OF PROBLEMS AND TO DISCRIBE OECD'S CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN ENERGY FIELD
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AND FUTURE POTENTIAL. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED WASHINGTON CONFERENCE COULD PROVIDE VALUABLE POLITICAL IMPETUS TO WORK ON ENERGY BEING UNDERTAKEN IN VARIOUS INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS.

5. SWISS, SWEDISH, AND IRISH DELS EXPRESSED VIEWS ON MATTERS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AT WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. SWISS DEL SAID THAT IN PREPARATION FOR DIALOGUE WITH

PRODUCERS FOLLOWING POINTS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED: (A) SECURITY OF SUPPLY, WHICH INVOLVES NOT ONLY PRODUCER-CONSUMER RELATIONS BUT COOPERATION AMONG THE CONSUMERS. (B) PRICE POLICY, INCLUDING SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF RECENT CRUDE OIL PRICE INCREASES. (C) ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. (D) PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH MASSIVE PAYMENTS TO OIL PRODUCERS, INCLUDING PROBLEMS FOR LDCS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES, ETC. (E) ENERGY POLICIES FOR THE LONGER TERM. SWISS DEL ALSO SAID THAT OECD SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FUTURE CONCERTATION OF OIL CONSUMERS POLICIES AND IN PRODUCER-CONSUMER DIALOGUE. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAW NEED FOR NEW RESTRICTED GROUP WITH MEMBERS TO BE SELECTED ON MORE REPRESENTATIVE BASIS THAN CURRENT OIL COMMITTEE HLG.

6. SWEDISH DEL SAID INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SHOULD AIM AT REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND. THE DIVERSIFICATION OF ENERGY SOURCES SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TOPIC. HE ALSO FAVORED IMPORTANT ROLE FOR OECD IN ONGOING WORK ON ENERGY. IRISH DEL WARMLY SUPPORTED WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, STATING THAT REAL DANGER NOT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, BUT DANGER THAT IMPORTING COUNTRIES WILL ADOPT INDIVIDUALISTIC, COMPETITIVE POLICIES. HE WELCOMED ASSOCIATION OF OECD WITH CONFERENCE THROUGH INVITATION TO SEC GEN.

7. SEVERAL DELEGATES SAID THEY WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEW ON WASHINGTON CONFERENCE IN OECD COUNCIL OR HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETINGS. AUSTRIAN DEL SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WITH INVITEES COULD ALSO MEET WITH OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION. HE ASKED US DEL TO RELAY PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON.

8. COMMENT: IF A SPECIAL EMISSARY DOES COME TO PARIS HE
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COULD CONSULT WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES NOT INVITED TO CONFERENCE AT ONE TIME BY MEETING WITH OECD HEADS OF DELEGATION, BUT THIS IS NO DOUBT SUBORDINATE TO MORE GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS QUESTIONS OF TIMING AND CONVEIENCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY TO AUSTRIAN SUGGESTION WHICH WE FORWARD WITHOUT ENDORSEMENT, IN DUE COURSE.
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